

Motor vehicles are permitted only within established roads, parking areas and designated Over-Sand Vehicle (OSV) routes. **Use of motor vehicles in designated OSV Zones is at the operator's own risk.** The following OSV use regulations are established to provide enjoyment of the park while protecting fragile resources of the barrier island. Upon signing an application for an OSV permit, permitee accepts responsibility to know and follow all OSV regulations. Failure to comply with the terms herein may result in revocation of OSV permit and/or federal prosecution. Please help maintain your privilege of OSV use by strictly complying with all regulations. All applicable State and Federal laws will be enforced. **Violations can be reported to Rangers by phoning 911.**

Over-Sand Vehicle (OSV) Permits	Hours of Operation	Valid in VA	Valid in MD	Cost
VIRGINIA	Refuge hours vary, Overnight Fishing Permit may be required	√		\$70
DAYUSE	5am-Midnight			\$90
OVERNIGHT	24 Hours (No camping, must be actively fishing past midnight)	√	√	\$110
BULLPEN	24 Hours (Overnight camping allowed in designated 'Bullpen' only)	√	√	\$150

LICENSES REQUIRED

All vehicles must bear valid state license plates, be properly equipped, insured, and registered to operate on public highways. Drivers must possess a valid state driver's license.

BOUNDRIES

All sand dunes and vegetated areas are considered closed even if located within OSV zone. Vehicles must stay to the east of the black and white posts. Bay access points in MD are marked with orange and white striped numbered posts. Maps of OSV zones are shown on reverse side.

REQUIRED EQUIPMENT

OSV operators in designated zone must carry and be able to display upon request:

□A shovel with at least a 6" square blade and 18" handle. □A vehicle jack sufficient to lift one wheel clear of the

 \square A jack support at least 12"x 12" of non-bending steel, 5/8" plywood or 1 ½"board.

☐A tire gauge with a minimum reading of 15 lbs or less. ☐A tow rope, strap, chain or cable with a minimum pulling strength of 6,000 lbs and at least 10ft long.

o½" min diameter for nylon or Dacron ropes o¾" min diameter for all other ropes o¼" min diameter for carbon steel cable o^{5/16}"min diameter for chain links

OSV ZONE LIMITS

Maryland =145

Virginia = 48 (18 when Toms Cove hook area is closed.) Maximum vehicle limits are reached frequently during summer, especially weekends and holidays, with a wait time of several hours which is managed on a one-off/one-on basis.

Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge is open May - Sep 5am-10pm; Oct 6am-8pm; Nov – Mar 6am-6pm; Apr 6am-8pm. Only those with a valid Overnight Fishing Permit may remain in the Refuge after hours.

INSPECTION OF VEHICLE

Authorized personnel may inspect vehicles at any time to ensure compliance with all regulations.

PASSENGER SAFETY

Passengers shall not ride on the fenders, hood, roof, sides, and tailgate or in any other position on the outside of a moving vehicle. No vehicle shall be used to tow a person or any recreational device over land, water or in the air. **Use of safety belts is required by law.**

SANITATION

Litter or waste may not be burned, buried or discarded in OSV zones but must be removed and disposed of in designated receptacles located outside OSV zones.

BULLPEN

Camping and/or sleeping are strictly prohibited outside designated camp sites. Self-contained vehicles with a valid 'Bullpen' permit may park overnight in the Bull Pen camping area (designated by signage and white PVC pipes) if they are equipped with an approved toilet and permanently installed waste storage tank and capable of holding two days volume of waste (including grey-water) for all occupants. All waste (including grey-water) must be retained in vehicle's holding tank while in the OSV zone and emptied in an approved location outside the park or at the trailer dump stations located in the Seashore's campground. Travel-trailers and tents are prohibited in the bullpen at all times. Non self-contained vehicles are prohibited from parking in or adjacent to the Bull Pen from 9pm-6am.

VEHICLE REQUIREMENTS

Maximum number of axles	2	
Maximum number of wheels per axle	2 (No dual wheels)	
Maximum vehicle length	26 feet	
Maximum vehicle width	8 feet	
Minimum vehicle ground clearance	7 inches	
Gross vehicle weight rating may not exceed	10,000 pounds	

Vehicles must meet above specifications. All two-wheel-drive vehicles must have a minimum of 8" width of tire tread in contact with the ground.

VEHICLE OPERATION

Vehicle speed in OSV zones may not exceed 25mph and must be reduced to 15mph whenever coming within 100ft of vehicles, wildlife, pedestrians, or people on horseback. When two vehicles approach from opposite directions in the same track, both operators shall reduce speed; and the operator with the ocean on his right shall pull out of the track to allow the other vehicle to pass. Driving on sand dunes or vegetated areas, except at posted crossings is prohibited. Cutting circles or needlessly defacing the beach is prohibited at all times.

USE LIMITATIONS

All OSV passes are valid for one year from month of purchase.

Purchase of an OSV permit does not guarantee access to OSV zone at any particular time. Access may be reduced or curtailed due to vehicle density limits, over-wash, emergency conditions or management constraints.

All vehicles using the OSV zone must display a permanently affixed OSV permit, valid for the area and time of use. The permit must be affixed to the windshield on the lower driver's side. Cleaning and drying the area before applying the permit is recommended for best adhesion. **Lost or stolen permits are not refundable or replaceable!**

OSV permits are issued for individual vehicles. Sale or transfer of the vehicle voids the permit. A replacement permit may be issued for a new vehicle only if enough of the original permit: permit type, serial number and month sticker, is returned for exchange. Permits destroyed in a vehicle accident may be replaced only if a police accident report is brought in for documentation. A receipt of purchase is insufficient for permit replacement in any case.

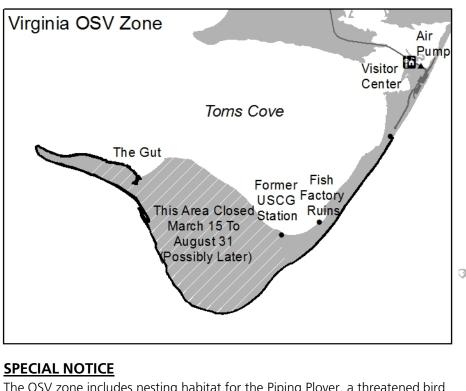
FIRES ON THE BEACH

In Maryland: Campfires are allowed below the high-tide line. Fires may not be left unattended and must be extinguished with water, not sand. Allow enough time for all wood to burn to ash before extinguishing. All debris and unburned wood must be removed from the beach.

In Virginia: Open fires are prohibited in the OSV zone.

MARYLAND AUTOMATED GATE OPERATION

The automated gate arms will remain open until the 145 vehicle count is reached. At that time both entry and exit arms will close. Sensors will open and close the gate when a vehicle approaches to exit or enter the OSV zone in a one off/one on basis. In case of malfunction, please notify a ranger or call Park Dispatch at 1-757-336-3155.



The OSV zone includes nesting habitat for the Piping Plover, a threatened bird species. To aid in the recovery of this species, the OSV zone will be subject to partial or total closure to all OSV, boat and pedestrian use during the nesting season, which could last from March 15 to August 31 (possibly later). Closed areas will be clearly marked by cable barriers and/ or signs.

80

Green

KM32

Run

Bay

TIPS FOR OSV OPERATION

- •Remember: You are responsible for knowing the regulations!
- •Lower tire pressure to 15 pounds.
- •Carry 4 boards (2"x6"x36"L) for placement under each tire when stuck.
- After stopping vehicle, back up several feet before proceeding forward.
- •Walk across suspected soft sand first to make sure that it will hold your vehicle.
- •Spinning the vehicle tires only makes them dig deeper into the sand, increasing the chance that the vehicle's frame will bottom out.
- •Driving in the tracks of another vehicle is easier than driving through fresh sand.

Pope Bav

Maryland

Virginia

- •Carry water displacement spray for drying wet engine electrical parts.
- •Do not drive in salt water.



PET REGULATIONS

Virginia: Pets are strictly prohibited throughout the refuge.

Maryland: Pets are permitted, but must be restrained by a leash no more than 6 feet in length, or otherwise physically confined at all times.

Ranger

Station

OSV Entrance

Air Pumps (Km 16.0)

ACCESS ROADS

Crossing dunes permitted only at bay access roads (KM 23.4 & KM 25.3) in Maryland. The backtrail is open to foot traffic only. Vehicle travel, north and south is prohibited.

